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EXAMINER JIANG, YONG HANG				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/792,124

Applicant(s)

PARK, CHANG K.

Examiner

YONG HANG JIANG

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS/US)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-7, 10-11, 15-20, 22, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Griesau et al. (US 6,507,306).

Regarding claim 1, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category, the universal remote control unit comprising (via universal remote control unit for controlling the operation of a plurality of devices, See the Abstract):

a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51);

means for sequentially turning on each of the lights (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2);

a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59);

means for placing the processor in the programming mode when the light associated with the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and

means for programming the processor to operate the particular device when the processor is in the programming mode (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 3, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category, the universal remote control unit comprising (See the Abstract):

an input unit for enabling a user to select a plurality of functions in connection with the operation of the plurality of devices (via input means 12 on remote control unit 10, Fig. 1 and 2); a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51); means for sequentially turning on each of the lights (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); a transmitter (via transmitter 80, Fig. 2); a processor

having a plurality of operating modes each of which corresponds to a different one of the plurality of devices (via processor 60 to operate different electronic devices, See fig. 2 and Abstract), the processor being operable in each of the plurality of operating modes to control transmission from the transmitter in response to activation of the function means by the user (Col. 1, lines 18-26); the processor further having a programming mode for programming the operating modes of the processor (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); means for placing the processor in the programming mode when the light associated with the device category of a particular device it is desired to program is lit (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and means for programming the processor to operate the particular device when the processor is in the programming mode (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 4, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category, the universal remote control unit comprising (See the Abstract): an input unit for enabling a user to select a plurality of functions in connection with the operation of the plurality of devices (via input means 12 on remote control unit 10, Fig. 1 and 2); a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting

diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51); means for sequentially turning on each of the lights (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); a transmitter (via transmitter 80, Fig. 2); a processor having a plurality of operating modes each of which corresponds to a different one of the plurality of devices (via processor 60 to operate different electronic devices, See fig. 2 and Abstract), the processor being operable in each of the plurality of operating modes to control transmission from the transmitter in response to activation of the function means by the user (Col. 1, lines 18-26); the processor further having a programming mode for programming the operating modes of the processor (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); means for placing the processor in the programming mode when the light associated with the device category of a particular device it is desired to program is lit (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); means for programming the processor to operate the particular device when the processor is in the programming mode (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59); and the processor being operable in a selected one of the plurality of operating modes upon receiving an input from the input units (via an input comprising pressing DEVICE pushbutton 40 and pressing mode push button, See col. 4, lines 49-58).

Regarding claim 5, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category, the universal remote control unit comprising (See the Abstract): a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51); means for sequentially turning on each of the lights (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); a transmitter (via transmitter 80, Fig. 2); a processor having a plurality of operating modes each of which corresponds to a different one of the plurality of devices (via processor 60 to operate different electronic devices, See fig. 2 and Abstract), the processor being operable in each of the plurality of operating modes to control transmission from the transmitter in response to activation of the function means by the user (Col. 1, lines 18-26); the processor further having a programming mode for programming the operating modes of the processor (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59), a keyboard having a plurality of buttons (via input means 12 comprising push buttons, See Fig. 1 and 2), at least one of the buttons upon actuation placing the processor in the programming mode when the light associated with the device category of a particular device it is desired to program is lit (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines

46-59); and at least one of the buttons upon actuation programming the processor to operate the particular device when the processor is in the programming mode (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59); and the processor being operable in a selected one of the plurality of operating modes upon actuation of at least one of the buttons (via an input comprising pressing DEVICE pushbutton 40 and pressing mode push button, See col. 4, lines 49-58).

Regarding claim 6, Griesau discloses a system comprising (via devices 20, fig. 1): a remotely controllable device (via cable box 22); and a universal remote control unit of any one of claims 1 - 5 for remote control of the device (via universal remote control unit 10, Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 7, Griesau discloses a method of enabling a universal remote control to remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category (via the use of universal remote control unit for controlling the operation of a plurality of devices, See the Abstract), the universal remote control unit having a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51) and a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); which method comprises: sequentially turning on each of the lights (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4,

lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); placing the processor in the programming mode when the light associated With the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and programming the processor to operate the particular device when the processor is in the programming mode (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 10, Griesau discloses the universal remote control includes a plurality of buttons (via pushbuttons included in the input means 12, Fig. 1-2) and the step of sequentially turning on the lights includes actuating at least one of the buttons (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2).

Regarding claim 11, Griesau discloses the universal remote control includes a plurality of buttons (via pushbuttons included in the input means 12, Fig. 1-2) and the step of programming the processor includes actuating at least one of the buttons (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, commands may be entered through the pushbuttons for the programming, See Col. 5, lines 46-47).

Regarding claim 15, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a

respective device category (See the Abstract), the universal remote control unit comprising: a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51); a keyboard having a plurality of buttons for providing respective keyboard output signals upon user activation of respective ones of the buttons (via input means 12 comprising pushbuttons, See Fig. 1-2), the plurality of buttons including a first group of functional buttons (via mode buttons 52, 54, 56, and 58, See fig. 1) and a second group of digit buttons (via pushbuttons 36, Fig. 1); means for sequentially turning on each of the light in response to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); means responsive to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons when the light associated with the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit for placing the processor in the programming mode (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and means responsive to actuation of at least one of the functional or digit buttons when the processor is in the programming mode for

programming the processor to operate the particular device (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 16, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category (See the Abstract), the universal remote control unit comprising: a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51); a keyboard having a plurality of buttons for providing respective keyboard output signals upon user activation of respective ones of the buttons (via input means 12 comprising pushbuttons, See Fig. 1-2), the plurality of buttons including a first group of functional buttons (via mode buttons 52, 54, 56, and 58, See fig. 1) and a second group of digit buttons (via pushbuttons 36, Fig. 1); means for sequentially turning on each of the light in response to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); means responsive to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons when the light associated with the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit for placing the processor in the programming mode (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held

down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and means responsive to actuation of at least one of the functional or digit buttons when the processor is in the programming mode for programming the processor to operate the particular device (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59); and a transmitter operative under control of the processor data to transmit device control signals towards the selected one of the plurality of devices in the specific one of the different categories of devices as determined by the actuation of at least one of the functional or digit buttons (via transmitter 80, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 17, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category (See the Abstract), the universal remote control unit comprising: a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51); a keyboard having a plurality of buttons for providing respective keyboard output signals upon user activation of respective ones of the buttons (via input means 12 comprising pushbuttons, See Fig. 1-2), the plurality of buttons including a first group of functional buttons (via mode buttons 52, 54, 56, and 58, See fig. 1) and a second group of digit buttons (via pushbuttons 36); means for sequentially turning on each of the light in response to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col.

3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); means responsive to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons when the light associated with the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit for placing the processor in the programming mode (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and means responsive to actuation of at least one of the functional when the processor is in the programming mode for programming the processor to operate the particular device (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59); and a transmitter operative under control of the processor data to transmit device control signals towards the selected one of the plurality of devices in the specific one of the different categories of devices as determined by the actuation of at least one of the functional or digit buttons (via transmitter 80, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 18, Griesau discloses a universal remote control unit for remotely controlling a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category (See the Abstract), the universal remote control unit comprising: a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51); a keyboard having a plurality of buttons for providing

respective keyboard output signals upon user activation of respective ones of the buttons (via input means 12 comprising pushbuttons, See Fig. 1-2), the plurality of buttons including a first group of functional buttons (via mode buttons 52, 54, 56, and 58, See fig. 1) and a second group of digit buttons (via pushbuttons 36); means for sequentially turning on each of the light in response to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); means responsive to actuation of at least one of the functional buttons when the light associated with the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit for placing the processor in the programming mode (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and means responsive to actuation of at least one of the digit buttons when the processor is in the programming mode for programming the processor to operate the particular device (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59); and a transmitter operative under control of the processor data to transmit device control signals towards the selected one of the plurality of devices in the specific one of the

different categories of devices as determined by the actuation of at least one of the functional or digit buttons (via transmitter 80, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 19, Griesau discloses a method of enabling a universal remote control to remotely control a plurality of remotely controllable devices each belonging to a respective device category (via the use of universal remote control unit for controlling the operation of a plurality of devices, See the Abstract), the universal remote control unit having a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51), a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59), and a keyboard having a plurality of buttons for providing respective keyboard output signals upon user activation of respective ones of the buttons (via input means 12 comprising pushbuttons, See Fig. 1-2), the plurality of buttons including a first group of functional buttons (via mode buttons 52, 54, 56, and 58, See fig. 1) and a second group of digit buttons (via pushbuttons 36); which method comprises: (a) user activation of at least one of the functional buttons to cause the lights to turn on in sequence (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); (b) user activation of at least one of the functional buttons when the light associated with the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit for placing the processor in the programming mode (via TV

push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59); and (c) user actuation of at least one of the functional or digit buttons when the processor is in the programming mode for programming the processor to operate the particular device (via push buttons in keyboard 30 to enter the desired program commands, See Col. 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 20, Griesau discloses step (c) key comprises user activation of at least one of the digit buttons (via push buttons in keyboard 30, Col. 5, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 22, Griesau discloses step (a) comprises user activation of a first one of the functional buttons to cause a first one of the lights to turn on, followed by actuation of at least a second one of the functional buttons to cause the first light to turn off and a second light to turn on (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2).

Regarding claim 24, Griesau discloses in step (a) the lights are cause to stay on for a predetermined period of time (See Col. 4, lines 33-35).

Regarding claim 25, Griesau discloses including actuating at least one functional button after step (c) to enable programming of another particular device (via a user may actuate push button cable 52 and OK/SEL push button 45 to program another device, Col. 5, lines 46-59).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2, 8-9 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesau as applied to claims 1, 7, 19 and 22 above, and further in view of Huang et al. (US 6,437,836).

Regarding claims 2, 8 and 23, Griesau discloses the universal remote control includes a plurality of directional buttons (See Fig. 1), but Griesau did not specifically disclose the step of sequentially turning on the lights includes selectively actuating the directional buttons. Huang teach an extended functionally remote control system, the system include a plurality of directional keys to allow for backwards and forwards scrolling of selections (See Col. 5, lines 54-63).

From the teachings of Huang, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the universal remote control of Griesau to include step of sequentially turning on the lights includes selectively actuating the directional buttons as taught by Huang to scroll through available selections, thereby making the remote control easier to operate.

Regarding claim 9, Griesau discloses the universal remote control further includes a plurality of other buttons and the step of sequentially turning on the lights

includes actuating at least one of the other buttons prior to actuating the directional buttons (via actuating the device button 40, Col. 4, lines 49-58).

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesau as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Young et al. (US 6,567,011).

Regarding claim 12, Griesau did not specifically disclose the method further including causing one of the lights to blink after the processor has been programmed. Young teaches a media system and remote control device, the remote control device is programmable, and upon successful completion of a programming sequence, the LED on the remote control may be configured to blink (See the Abstract, and Col. 11, lines 10-14, and Col. 9, lines 40-45).

From the teachings of Young, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Griesau to include causing one of the lights to blink after the processor has been programmed as taught by Young to notify a user upon successful completion of a programming sequence, thereby providing notification.

4. Claims 13 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesau as applied to claims 1 and 19-20 above, and further in view of McConnell et al. (US 5,872,562).

Regarding claims 13 and 21, Griesau did not specifically disclose each of the device has a code associated therewith, the universal remote control includes a plurality of buttons and the step of programming the processor includes sequentially turning on

the lights by actuating at least one of the buttons to enter the code for a particular device.

McConnell teaches a universal remote control transmitter with simplified device identification. To program the remote control to control a particular device, the user first activates an entry key, thereafter a key to indicate the category of the selected device, and thereafter two digits which together signify the manufacturer and model number. The keyboard output signals resulting from activation of the keys are stored in RAM in the microprocessor controlling the remote control transmitter's operation. The stored values in RAM constitute an address for the memory. Under microprocessor control, the data read out from memory is then applied to the transmitter driver circuit to cause the properly formatted device control signal to be transmitted. (See the Abstract)

From the teachings of McConnell, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the remote control unit of Griesau to include each of the device has a code associated therewith, the universal remote control includes a plurality of buttons and the step of programming the processor includes sequentially turning on the lights by actuating at least one of the buttons to enter the code for a particular device as taught by McConnell to access data stored in memory to properly transmit control signals to a desired appliance.

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesau (6,507,306), and further in view of Rumbolt et al. (US 4,703,359).

Regarding claim 14, Griesau discloses a method for adapting a universal remote control unit to generate device command signals for controlling a selected one of a

plurality of devices of different categories (via the use of universal remote control unit for controlling the operation of a plurality of devices, See the Abstract), the universal remote control unit having a plurality of lights corresponding to each device category (via each of the plurality of mode push buttons may be having, for example, a backlit light-emitting diode, See Col. 3, lines 49-51) and a processor having a programming mode for programming the processor to control a particular device (via processor 60 may be programmed to allow TV push button 54 to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-47); which method comprises: setting the selected device to execute an observable action upon receipt of a response-evoking signal (via television power on/off upon receipt of signal transmitted by pressing TV push button 54, See col. 5, lines 39-41); sequentially turning on each of the lights (via input means 12 comprising push button 40 and mode push buttons 50 for initiating and selecting a mode change sequentially as desired, See Col. 3, lines 38-45 and Col. 4, lines 49-62; and Figures 1 and 2); placing the processor in the programming mode when the light associated with the device category of the particular device it is desired to program is lit (via TV push button 54 and OK/SEL push button 45 are pressed at the same time and held down until TV push button 54 illuminates indicating that processor 60 is ready to be programmed, See Col. 5, lines 46-59)

Griesau did not specifically disclose programming the processor to operate the particular device when the processor is in the programming mode by transmitting in sequence a plurality of response command signals each commanding the predetermined action until the selected device executes the observable action; and

terminating the programming of the processor when the device executes the observable action.

Rumbolt teaches a universal remote control unit with model identification capability. The remote control unit responds to activation of a "identify" button by transmitting a sequence of command signals, each of the same command in a different format. Since the appliance to be controlled is turned on, it responds in a predetermined way (e.g. a channel change) when it receives the properly formatted command. The user then terminates the learn mode and a pointer denoting the address of the last transmitted command, i.e. the properly formatted command, is stored in the unit and used as part of the address for reading data for subsequent user-selected commands out of memory. (See the Abstract)

From the teachings of Rumbolt, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Griesau to include programming the processor to operate the particular device when the processor is in the programming mode by transmitting in sequence a plurality of response command signals each commanding the predetermined action until the selected device executes the observable action; and terminating the programming of the processor when the device executes the observable action as taught by Rumbolt to program a remote control without entering any codes, thereby making the remote easier to program by alleviating the need to remember the codes.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YONG HANG JIANG whose telephone number is (571)270-3024. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian A. Zimmerman can be reached on 571-272-3059. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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